

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 18, 2011

Agenda Item: Selection of Organizations to Auction 2012 Moose, Sheep, Goat, Mule Deer and Elk Licenses

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Final Action

Time Needed on Agenda for the Presentation: 15 minutes

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Background: Consistent with previous years, the Commission adopted in June the annual rules establishing criteria and process for selecting conservation organizations to conduct the moose, sheep, goat, mule deer and elk license auctions/lotteries. The Department then solicited proposals to conduct the auctions/lotteries as described. The Commission decides which organization is awarded the license(s) for distribution through auction or lottery.

The 2011 species auction licenses were awarded to: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) – elk and moose, Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) – mule deer, Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) – bighorn sheep, Safari Club International Great Falls (SCI-Great Falls) - goat. All licenses were auctioned at fund raising events.

During the current legislative audit, questions were raised as to whether or not FWP had been complying with the statute by allowing organizations to retain a full 10% of the proceeds. The statute allows the authorized organization to retain up to 10% of the proceeds of the sales to cover reasonable auction expenses. FWP will work with organizations that opt to retain the up to 10% to determine reasonable costs associated with the auction of the license.

Public Involvement Process and Results: The public had opportunity to comment during proposal and adoption of the auction rules. A letter of solicitation was sent to cooperators that have expressed interest. Responding proposals for 2012 licenses came from the Wild Sheep Foundation for the sheep, Mule Deer Foundation for the mule deer and elk licenses, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for the elk and moose licenses and Safari Club International Great Falls for the goat license and new for this year, Safari Club International Foundation requested sheep, moose, goat, deer and elk licenses.

Alternatives and Analysis: This format has been successful and the Department has not utilized another alternative. Interest in obtaining and aggressively auctioning these licenses has remained high with these responding conservation organizations at least. Further, many of these conservation organizations have effectively and significantly partnered with FWP on other conservation and management efforts.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: The Department typically does not make a specific recommendation to the Commission in terms of which organization should be awarded which license and has been asked by the Commission to merely pass along the proposals submitted.

Proposed Motion: I move the Commission approve (organization name) to be awarded the 2012 (species name) auction license.